

Economic and Social

1. Prior to November 1898 African Americans in Wilmington were employed in all segments of the workforce, as professionals, skilled artisans, government employees, maritime crew members, industrial workers, laborers, and domestics. After 1898 the number of blacks employed as professionals (aside from ministers), as skilled artisans, and in government jobs declined while the number working in lower status jobs increased.
2. Prior to November 1898 African Americans in Wilmington benefited from a cohesive social network composed of churches, strong fraternal organizations, and other civic and benevolent groups. After 1898 the network gradually rebounded but the social structure was altered as a result of statutory segregation.
3. One result of the Wilmington diaspora (the departure of African Americans from the Port City, voluntary or otherwise) was a decline in economic opportunity for black citizens.
4. Analysis of statistical data indicates that Wilmington's black businesses and workers suffered losses after 1898 in terms of job status, income, and access to capital.
5. After 1898, black-owned businesses suffered economic decline as some businesses closed or moved from the city's business district to traditionally black neighborhoods.
6. Analysis of deeds and tax records indicates that most black property owners in Wilmington retained ownership of holdings after 1898. No evidence was found to support the thesis that seizure of black-owned property by whites was widespread after 1898.
7. Analysis of residential patterns after 1898, based on the mapping of city directory and tax data, indicates that segregated neighborhoods in Wilmington increased and that the city's center became almost exclusively white.
8. After 1898, Wilmington's black schools and teachers received significantly less funding compared to white schools and teachers, a pattern reflective of trends across North Carolina. Black literacy rates in the city dropped to rates much lower than those of whites.